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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,592

Applicant(s)

UEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Shirley X. Zhang

Art Unit

4121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date February 12, 2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to the U.S. patent application no. 10/776,592 filed February 12, 2004.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) filed on February 12, 2004 with the original application. Receipt is also acknowledged of a certified copy of the foreign priority application submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) on February 12, 2004, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An information disclosure statement (IDS) was filed with the original application on February 12, 2004. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality:

Page 6, line 27 recites, "when the dialogue support device 1 operates as a wave server," where the term "wave server" appears to be out of context.

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Claim 18 recites “a situation registration section” that cannot be found in either the specification or the drawings.

Drawings

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the following features must be shown in the drawings or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s):

“situation detection device” recited in claims 1, 4, 9, 19, and 22;

“mobile unit detection section” and “presence judgment section” recited in claim 4;

and **“destination status acquisition section” recited in claim 12.**

No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the

renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
6. **Claims 1-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,529,136 to Cao et al., hereinafter "**Cao**", in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,907,252 to Papadias et al. hereinafter "**Papadias**".

Regarding claim 1, Cao teaches a dialogue support system (Fig. 2 and column 5, lines 6-9 disclose a group notification system comprising a plurality of user wireless modules and one or

more group location alert servers) for supporting the occurrence of a dialogue in a place designated as a dialogue place (column 7, lines 1-27 disclose reference points such as a public library or a meeting room in a building as possible dialogue place), comprising:

a dialogue condition accumulation section (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 57-61 disclose a profile database) for accumulating a dialogue condition containing the designation of a desired situation (column 6, lines 57-61 disclose that the profile database stores desired situations such as the group to which a wireless user belongs, and the proximity range) and the designation of a destination (column 6, lines 61-62 disclose that the profile database also contains the reference location of clients; according to column 4, lines 45-47 a client refers to an individual or group of individuals for whom the data concerning the location of the users is being coordinated, and to whom a message is sent when a proximity event occurs);

a situation detection device for detecting a situation of the dialogue place (column 5, lines 50-51, where the GPS receiver interface is a situation detection device and the presence of a user in a predetermined proximity is a situation of the dialogue place);

a situation monitoring section for comparing the situation of the dialogue place detected by the situation detection device and the dialogue condition accumulated in the dialogue condition accumulation section to judge whether the detected situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module as a situation monitoring section that calculates the distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold); and

a notification section for notifying a designated destination that the situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred when it is judged by the situation monitoring section that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 51-53 and column 7 lines 38-42 disclose a notification module that is triggered by the matching module to send messages to the client when the predetermined event of users' occurs).

Cao does not disclose that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place.

However, Papadias teaches a situation detection device that is disposed in the dialogue place (column 2, lines 17-20 disclose that one or more detectors are installed at one or more corresponding selected locations for monitoring the transmissions of mobile terminals that come nearby).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cao with Papadias so that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place. One would have been motivated to make such combination because both Cao and Papadias disclose the need for detecting the presence of a mobile device in the proximity of a predetermined location, therefore the combination will yield a predictable result with reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 1. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support system comprises a dialogue condition registration section for registering a dialogue condition (Fig. 4 and column 7 lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager that manages the profile database) wherein:

the dialogue condition registration section receives the designation of a dialogue place and registers a dialogue condition containing the received dialogue place in the dialogue

condition accumulation section (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose that via the user/group manager, a client may have permission to set his or her profile over the internet; column 6, lines 57-64 disclose that the profile database stores profile information such as user group, subgroup, proximity range and reference points; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates a reference point as the dialogue place).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 1. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support system comprises a dialogue condition registration section for registering a dialogue condition (Fig. 4 and column 7 lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager that manages the profile database) wherein:

the dialogue condition registration section receives the designation of a dialogue party and registers a dialogue condition containing the received dialogue party in the dialogue condition accumulation section (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose that via the user/group manager, a client may have permission to set his or her profile over the internet; column 6, lines 57-64 disclose that the profile database stores profile information such as user group, subgroup, proximity range and reference points; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates one or more mobile users as the dialogue party).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 1.

Papadias further teaches that the situation detection device is provided with:

a mobile unit detection section for detecting a mobile unit possessed by a person who can be a dialogue party (column 3, lines 2-3 disclose that detector 13 listens to signals transmitted in proximity and in particular to the signal transmitted by GSM cell phone 11, which functions are performed by a mobile unit detection section); and

a presence judgment section for judging the presence of the dialogue party according to the detected result by the mobile unit detection section (column 3, lines 4-11 disclose that detector 13 attempts to identify the presence of a GSM phone based on the signal it receives by performing an analysis of the detected envelope of the signal received, which functions are performed by a presence judgment section).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cao with Papadias so that the situation detection device is provided with a mobile unit detection section and a presence judgment section. One would have been motivated to make such combination because both Cao and Papadias disclose the need for detecting the presence of a mobile device in the proximity of a predetermined location, therefore the combination will yield a predictable result with reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 1.

Cao further teaches a destination status judgment section for judging a status of the destination wherein the notification section notifies the destination that a situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred, provided that the status of the destination judged by the destination status judgment section conforms to a predetermined status (column 2, lines 23-34 and column 7, lines 7-23 disclose exemplary situations where a client is interested in being

notified when the users or user wireless modules are within a predetermined distance of a designated reference point, such as a library or a meeting room. A user's location is detected by a GPS receiver and conformity of the location to the predetermined criteria is judged by the matching module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54; in the case that the client is also a member of the meeting group M or N, he or she is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is detected by the GSP receiver, judged by the matching module and sent to other group members in notification messages, while who as a destination is notified of other dialogue parties' status conformity).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 1. Cao further disclose that the dialog support system comprises an informing device which is disposed in the dialogue place and informs the conformity to the dialogue condition when the conformity of the situation to the dialogue condition is judged by the situation monitoring section (column 2, lines 14-22 disclose an exemplary situation where meeting participants A, B and C are notified automatically of the fourth participant D's readiness for the meeting, where it can be implied that an informing device is disposed in the dialogue place for such notification purpose).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 6. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support system comprises a response reception section for receiving a response to the notification from the notification section, wherein the informing device informs the conformity to the dialogue condition, provided that the response reception section has received the response to the notification (column 2, lines 7-34 and column 7, lines 1-27 disclose various exemplary situations where the group location

alert server can be used to coordinate meetings among group members upon requests made by the clients; column 8, lines 11-14 further disclose that in the example of a group attendance, the group location alert server triggers or initiates the desired application or business transaction, once all the group members are within a desired proximity distance or range. It can therefore be implied that after a client receives the notification regarding all group members' conformity to the proximity requirement, the client will respond by trying to start a group meeting, which serves as a response to the notification; the group alert server will then inform the group members of the meeting request, which serves as an indication of the group members' conformity to the proximity requirements).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support system according to claim 6. Cao further teaches that the dialog support system comprises a movement detection section for detecting that a person at the destination has moved, wherein the informing device informs the conformity to the dialogue condition, provided that the movement of the person at the destination is detected by the movement detection section (column 2, lines 1-4 and 14-16 disclose that group notification system determines the trajectory and direction of movement of the people involved; column 9, lines 14-30 further disclose that the system checks whether a user location has changed, and if the proximity distance changes or exceeds the threshold value, the client is notified of such change. As the three exemplary situations in column 7, lines 7-23 indicates the client can be a member of the meeting group M or N, in which case the said client is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is judged by the matching module and sent to other group

members in notification messages, while who as a destination is notified of other dialogue parties' status conformity).

Regarding claim 9, Cao teaches a dialogue support device (Fig. 2 and column 5, lines 6-9 disclose a group notification system comprising a plurality of user wireless modules and one or more group location alert server that together forms a dialogue support device) for supporting the occurrence of a dialogue in a place designated as a dialogue place, comprising:

a dialogue condition accumulation section (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 57-61 disclose a profile database) for accumulating a dialogue condition including the designation of a desired situation (column 6, lines 57-61 disclose that the profile database stores desired situations such as the group to which a wireless user belongs and the proximity range) and the designation of a destination (column 6, lines 61-62 disclose that the profile database contains the reference location of clients; according to column 4, lines 45-47 a client refers to an individual or group of individuals for whom the data concerning the location of the users is being coordinated, and to whom a message is sent when a proximity event occurs);

a situation acquisition section for obtaining a situation of the dialogue place detected by a situation detection device (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 16-19 disclose a session manager that acquires the location information of the various users from the various user wireless modules);

a situation monitoring section for comparing the situation of the dialogue place obtained by the situation acquisition section and the dialogue condition accumulated in the dialogue condition accumulation section to judge whether the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module that calculates the distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference

points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold); and

a notification section for notifying a designated destination that the situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred when it is judged by the situation monitoring section that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 51-53 and column 7 lines 38-42 disclose a notification module that is triggered by the matching module to send messages to the client when the predetermined event of users occurs).

Cao does not disclose that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place.

However, Papadias teaches a situation detection device that is disposed in the dialogue place (column 2, lines 17-20 disclose that one or more detectors are installed at one or more corresponding selected locations for monitoring the transmissions of mobile terminals that come nearby).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cao with Papadias so that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place. One would have been motivated to make such combination because both Cao and Papadias disclose the need for detecting the presence of a mobile device in the proximity of a predetermined location, therefore the combination will yield a predictable result with reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 9. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a dialogue condition reception section for receiving the registration of a dialogue condition, wherein the dialogue condition reception section receives the dialogue condition containing the

designation of a dialogue place and registers the received dialogue condition in the dialogue condition accumulation section (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager for managing the user profile database and allowing a user to set his or her profile over the internet using his or her wireless module; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates a reference point as the dialogue place).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 9. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a dialogue condition reception section for receiving the registration of a dialogue condition, wherein the dialogue condition reception section receives the dialogue condition containing the designation of a dialogue party and registers the received dialogue condition in the dialogue condition accumulation section (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager for managing the user profile database and allowing a user to set his or her profile over the internet using his or her wireless module; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates one or more mobile users as the dialogue party).

Regarding claim 12, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 9. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a destination status acquisition section for obtaining a status of a person corresponding to the destination wherein the notification section notifies the destination that a situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred, provided that the status of the person obtained by the destination status acquisition section conforms to a predetermined status (column 2, lines 23-34 and column 7, lines 7-23 disclose exemplary situations where a client is interested in being

notified if the users or user wireless modules are within a predetermined distance of a designated reference point, such as a library or a meeting room. A user's location is detected by a GPS receiver and its conformity to the predetermined criteria is judged by the matching module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54, therefore the GPS receiver and the matching module together perform functions equivalent to that of the destination status acquisition section; In the case that the client is also a member of the meeting group M or N, he or she is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is obtained by the location detection module, judged by the matching module, and sent to other group members in notification messages, and who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity by the notification module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 51-53 and column 7 lines 38-42).

Regarding claim 13, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 9. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a standby instruction informing section for informing a standby instruction to the dialogue party present in the dialogue place via an informing device disposed in the dialogue place when it is judged by the situation monitoring section that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (column 2, lines 14-22 disclose an exemplary situation where meeting participants A, B and C are notified automatically of the fourth participant D's readiness for the meeting, where it can be implied that an informing device is disposed in the dialogue place to inform a meeting participant of other participants status as further disclosed in column 9, lines 29-30).

Regarding claim 14, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 13. Cao further teaches that the device comprises a response reception section for receiving a response to the notification by the notification section, wherein the

standby instruction informing section informs the standby instruction, provided that the response reception section has received the response to the notification (column 2, lines 7-34 and column 7, lines 1-27 disclose various exemplary situations where the group location alert server can be used to coordinate meetings among group members upon requests made by the clients; column 8, lines 11-14 further disclose that in the example of a group attendance, the group location alert server triggers or initiates the desired application or business transaction, once all the group members are within a desired proximity distance or range. It can therefore be implied that after a client receives the notification regarding all group members' conformity to the proximity requirement, the client will respond by trying to start a group meeting, which serves as a response to the notification; the group alert server will then inform the group members of the meeting request, which serves as a standby instruction).

Regarding claim 15, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 13. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a movement information acquisition section for obtaining a detected result by a movement detection section for detecting the movement of a person at the destination wherein: the informing device informs the standby instruction according to the detected result obtained by the movement information acquisition section, provided that the person at the destination has moved (column 2, lines 1-4 and lines 14-16 disclose that the group notification system determines the trajectory and direction of movement of the people involved; column 9, lines 14-30 further disclose that the system checks whether a user location has changed, and if the proximity distance changes or exceeds the threshold value, the client is notified of such change. As disclosed in the three exemplary situations in column 7, lines 7-23, the client can be a

member of the meeting group M or N, in which case the said client is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is judged by the matching module and sent to other group members in notification messages, and who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity).

Regarding claim 16, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 9. Cao further teaches that the dialog support device comprises a situation accumulation section for accumulating the situation obtained by the situation acquisition section (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 19-21 disclose a location database for storing location information of various users detected by the GPS receiver interface as disclosed in column 5, lines 49-50), wherein:

the situation monitoring section compares the situation accumulated in the situation accumulation section and the dialogue condition accumulated in the dialogue condition accumulation section (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module that calculates the distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold).

Regarding claim 17, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 16. Cao further teaches that the notification section notifies the judged result as a situation of a corresponding dialogue place to a different dialogue support device when it is judged by the situation 15 monitoring section that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (column 2, lines 39-42 disclose that the group notification system comprises

two main components, one of which is one or more group location alert servers. In the case the system comprises multiple group location alert servers, i.e., dialogue support device, the notification section will be able to notify the judged result to a different group location alert server).

Regarding claim 18, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support device according to claim 17. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support device comprises a situation registration section for accumulating in the situation accumulation section the situation notified by the different dialogue support device as a situation of the dialogue place managed by the different dialogue support device (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 16-19 disclose a session manager that acquires the location information of the various users from the various user wireless modules and stores the location information in the location database).

Regarding claim 19, Cao teaches a dialogue support method for supporting the occurrence of a dialogue (Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 5-34 disclose features of a group notification system that supports group meeting at a predetermined place) in a place designated as a dialogue place (column 7, lines 1-27 disclose reference points such as a public library or a meeting room in a building as possible dialogue place), comprising:

obtaining a situation of the dialogue place detected by a situation detection device (column 5, lines 50-51 disclose the GPS receiver interface as a situation detection device and the presence of a user in a predetermined proximity is a situation of the dialogue place)

comparing the obtained situation and a dialogue condition containing the designation of a desired situation and the designation of a destination (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module that as a situation monitoring section calculates the

distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold); and

notifying the occurrence of a situation conforming to the dialogue condition to the destination designated by the dialogue condition when the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 7 lines 38-42 disclose when the trigger event occurs, a notification is sent from notification module to the client, where the client is a designated destination).

Cao does not disclose that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place.

However, Papadias teaches a situation detection device that is disposed in the dialogue place (column 2, lines 17-20 disclose that one or more detectors are installed at one or more corresponding selected locations for monitoring the transmissions of mobile terminals that come nearby).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cao with Papadias so that the situation detection device is disposed in the dialogue place. One would have been motivated to make such combination because both Cao and Papadias disclose the need for detecting the presence of a mobile device in the proximity of a predetermined location, therefore the combination will yield a predictable result with reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 20, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 19. Cao further teaches that the dialogue condition contains the designation of a dialogue place (column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates a reference point as the dialogue place).

Regarding claim 21, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 19. Cao further teaches that the dialogue condition contains the designation of a dialogue party (column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7, lines 1-27 disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates one or more mobile users as the dialogue party).

Regarding claim 22, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 19. Cao further teaches that the detected result of a mobile unit possessed by a person who can be a dialogue party is obtained from the situation detection device (column 6, lines 16-19 disclose that a session manager acquires the location information of the various users from the various user wireless modules, where such location information is determined by the GPS receiver interface - the situation detection device - disclosed in column 5, lines 49-50), the presence of the dialogue party is judged according to the obtained detected result, and the judged result is compared as a situation of the dialogue place with the dialogue condition (column 6, lines 44-52 disclose that the matching module calculates distance between users, compares the distance to a predetermined threshold, and determines if the distance is less than the predetermined threshold).

Regarding claim 23, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 19. Cao further teaches that a status of the destination is judged, and the occurrence of a situation conforming to the dialogue condition is notified to the destination, provided that the judged status of the destination conforms to a prescribed status (column 2, lines 23-34 and column 7, lines 7-23 disclose exemplary situations where a client is interested in being notified if the users or user wireless modules are within a predetermined distance of a designated

reference point, such as a library or a meeting room. A user's location is detected by a GPS receiver and the conformity of the location to the predetermined criteria is judged by the matching module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54; In the case that the client is a member of the meeting group M or N, he or she is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is detected by the GSP receiver, judged by the matching module and sent to other group members in notification messages, while who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity).

Regarding claim 24, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 19. Cao further teaches that the conformity to the dialogue condition is informed to a dialogue place corresponding to the dialogue condition when it is judged that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (column 2, lines 14-22 disclose an exemplary situation where meeting participants A, B and C are notified automatically of the fourth participant D's delay for the meeting).

Regarding claim 25, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 24. Cao further teaches that the conformity to the dialogue condition is informed, provided that there is a response to the notification (column 2, lines 7-34 and column 7, lines 1-27 disclose various exemplary situations where the group location alert server can be used to coordinate meetings among group members upon requests made by the clients; column 8, lines 11-14 further disclose that in the example of a group attendance, the group location alert server triggers or initiates the desired application or business transaction, once all the group members are within a desired proximity distance or range. It can therefore be implied that after a client receives the notification regarding all group members' conformity to the

proximity requirement, the client will respond by trying to start a group meeting, which serves as a response to the notification; the group alert server will then inform the group members of the meeting request, which serves as an indication of the group members' conformity to the proximity requirements).

Regarding claim 26, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support method according to claim 24. Cao further teaches that the movement of a person at the destination is detected, and the conformity to the dialogue condition is informed, provided that the movement of the person is detected (column 2, lines 1-4 and lines 14-16 disclose that the group notification system determines the trajectory and direction of movement of the people involved; column 9, lines 14-30 further disclose that the system checks whether a user location has changed, and if the proximity distance changes or exceeds the threshold value, the client is notified of such change. As further disclosed in the three exemplary situations in column 7, lines 7-23, the client can be a member of the meeting group M or N, in which case the said client is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is judged by the matching module and sent to other group members in notification messages, while who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity).

Regarding claim 27, Cao teaches a dialogue support program for supporting the occurrence of a dialogue (Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 5-34 disclose features of a group notification system that supports group meeting at a predetermined place) in a place designated as a dialogue place (column 7, lines 1-27 disclose reference points such as a public library or a meeting room in a building as possible dialogue places), which causes a computer to perform the following:

a dialogue condition accumulating process for accumulating a dialogue condition containing the designation of a desired situation (column 6, lines 57-61 disclose that the profile database stores desired situations such as the group a wireless user belongs, the proximity range) and the designation of a destination (column 6, lines 61-62 disclose that the profile database contains the reference location of clients; according to column 4, lines 45-47 a client refers to an individual or group of individuals for whom the data concerning the location of the users is being coordinated, and to whom a message is sent when a proximity event occurs);

a situation acquisition process for obtaining a situation of the dialogue place detected by situation detection means (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 16-19 disclose a session manager that acquires the location information of the various users from the various user wireless modules);

a situation monitoring process for comparing the situation of the dialogue place obtained by the situation acquisition process and the dialogue condition accumulated by the dialogue condition accumulating process to judge whether the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module that calculates the distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold); and

a notification process for notifying the designated destination that the situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred when it is judged by the situation monitoring process that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 51-53 and column 7 lines 38-42 disclose a notification module that is triggered by the matching module to send messages to the client when the predetermined event of a user occurs).

Cao does not disclose that the situation detection means is disposed in the dialogue place.

However, Papadias teaches a situation detection means that is disposed in the dialogue place (column 2, lines 17-20 disclose that one or more detectors are installed at one or more corresponding selected locations for monitoring the transmissions of mobile terminals that come nearby).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cao with Papadias so that the situation detection means is disposed in the dialogue place. One would have been motivated to make such combination because both Cao and Papadias disclose the need for detecting the presence of a mobile device in the proximity of a predetermined location, therefore the combination will yield a predictable result with reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 28, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 27. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a dialogue condition reception process for receiving the registration of the dialogue condition, wherein the dialogue condition reception process receives a dialogue condition containing the designation of a dialogue place, and the received dialogue condition is registered by the dialogue condition accumulating process (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager for managing user profile database and allowing a user to set his or her profile over the internet using his or her wireless module; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates a reference point as the dialogue place).

Regarding claim 29, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 27. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a dialogue condition reception process for receiving the registration of a dialogue condition, wherein the dialogue condition reception process receives a dialogue condition containing the designation of a dialogue party, and the received dialogue condition is registered by the dialogue condition accumulating process (column 7, lines 42-49 disclose a user/group manager for managing user profile database and allowing a user to set his or her profile over the internet using his or her wireless module; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 7 lines 1-27 further disclose exemplary situations where each situation designates one or more mobile users as the dialogue party).

Regarding claim 30, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 27. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a destination condition acquisition process for obtaining a status of a person corresponding to the destination, wherein the notification process notifies the destination that a situation conforming to the dialogue condition has occurred, provided that the status of the person obtained by the destination condition acquisition process conforms to a predetermined status (column 2, lines 23-34 and column 7, lines 7-23 disclose exemplary situations where a client is interested in being notified when the users or user wireless modules are within a predetermined distance of a designated reference point, such as a library or a meeting room. A user's location is detected by a GPS receiver and its conformity to the predetermined criteria is judged by the matching module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54, therefore the GPS receiver and the matching module together perform functions equivalent to

that of the destination status acquisition section; In the case that the client is a member of the meeting group M or N, he or she is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is obtained by the location detection module, judged by the matching module, and sent to other group members in notification messages, and who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity by the notification module disclosed in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 51-53 and column 7 lines 38-42).

Regarding claim 31, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 27. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a standby instruction informing process for informing a standby instruction to a dialogue party present in the dialogue place via informing means disposed in the dialogue place when it is judged by the situation monitoring process that the situation conforms to 15 the dialogue condition (column 2, lines 14-22 disclose an exemplary situation where meeting participants A, B and C are notified automatically of the fourth participant D's readiness for the meeting, where it can be implied that an informing device is disposed in the dialogue place to inform a meeting participant of other participants status as further disclosed in column 9, lines 29-30).

Regarding claim 32, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 31. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a response reception process for receiving a response to the notification by the notification process, wherein the standby instruction informing process informs the standby instruction, provided that the response reception process has received the response to the notification (column 2, lines 7-34 and column 7, lines 1-27 disclose various exemplary situations

where the group location alert server can be used to coordinate meetings among group members upon requests made by the clients; column 8, lines 11-14 further disclose that in the example of a group attendance, the group location alert server triggers or initiates the desired application or business transaction, once all the group members are within a desired proximity distance or range. It can therefore be implied that after a client receives the notification regarding all group members' conformity to the proximity requirement, the client will respond by trying to start a group meeting, which serves as a response to the notification; the group alert server will then inform the group members of the meeting request, which serves as a standby instruction).

Regarding claim 33, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 31. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a movement information acquisition process for obtaining the detected result by movement detection means for detecting the movement of a person at the destination, wherein the informing process informs the standby instruction according to the detected result obtained by the movement information acquisition process, provided that the person at the destination has moved (column 2, lines 1-4 and lines 14-16 disclose that the group notification system determines the trajectory and direction of movement of the people involved; column 9, lines 14-30 further disclose that the system checks whether a user location has changed, and if the proximity distance changes or exceeds the threshold value, the client is notified of such change. As disclosed in the three exemplary situations in column 7, lines 7-23, the client can be a member of the meeting group M or N, in which case the said client is both a dialogue party and a destination, whose status as a dialogue party is judged by the matching module and sent to

other group members in notification messages, and who as a destination is notified of other members status conformity).

Regarding claim 34, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 27. Cao further teaches that the dialogue support program causes the computer to perform a situation accumulating process for accumulating a situation obtained by the situation acquisition process (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 19-21 disclose a location database for storing location information of various users detected by the GPS receiver interface as disclosed in column 5, lines 49-50), wherein:

the situation monitoring process compares the situation accumulated by the situation accumulating process and the dialogue condition accumulated by the dialogue condition accumulating process (Fig. 4, column 6, lines 45-55 and column 7 lines 51-54 disclose a matching module which, as a situation monitoring section, calculates the distance between the wireless user modules and predetermined reference points and then compares the calculated distance to a predetermined threshold stored in the profile database to decide if the calculated distance is less than the predetermined threshold).

Regarding claim 35, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 34. Cao further teaches that the notification process contains a process to notify the judged result as a situation of a corresponding dialogue place to another dialogue support device when it is judged by the situation monitoring process that the situation conforms to the dialogue condition (column 2, lines 39-42 disclose that the group notification system comprises two main components, one of which is one or more group location alert servers. In the case the system comprises multiple group location alert servers, i.e., dialogue

support device, the notification section will notify the judged result to a different group location alert server).

Regarding claim 36, the combination of Cao and Papadias teaches the dialogue support program according to claim 35. Cao further teaches that the situation accumulating process contains a process for accumulating the situation notified from the different dialogue support device as a situation of the dialogue place managed by the different dialogue support device (Fig. 4 and column 6, lines 16-19 disclose a session manager that acquires the location information of the various users from the various user wireless modules and stores the location information in the location database).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6968179 B1 De Vries; Jean Pierre Place specific buddy list services

US 7113797 B2 Kelley; Edward E. et al. System, method and program
product for scheduling meetings

US 20050143097 A1 Wilson, Brian et al. System for providing location-based
services in a wireless network, such as providing notification regarding meetings, destination
arrivals, and the like

US 20030046304 A1 Peskin, Christopher A. et al. Event-based appointment scheduling
adaptive to real-time information

US 6446004 B Cao K T et al. Proximity driven activity implementation method in e-commerce, involves executing software code corresponding to specified activity, when destination location is within proximity range of mobile computing device;

US 20030013456 A Bates, C L et al. User notification method for a portable communication device comprises determining location of both communication devices within same region;

US 6100806 A Gaukel, J J Continuous electronic monitoring and tracking apparatus for mobile objects or individuals, has central control station with programmable computer with memory to receive, process and store download from cellular bag;

US 5422816 A Sprague, D S et al. Portable personal navigation tracking system, e.g. for police and fire dispatchers - adapts GPS receivers with data/voice modems to standard radio communication receivers over single radio frequency link;

US 20030046304 A Carlson, G F et al. Augmentation method for event-based appointment in electronic scheduler, involves performing event actions if acquired event-related information satisfies event trigger;

US 6774840 B Adamczyk, M et al. Arrival notification providing system for e.g. public switched telecommunication network, has transmission unit transmitting notification message via communication pathway, when specified party has arrived at specified location;

US 6832092 B Baradello, C S et al. Communication method in vehicle dispatch system, involves processing assignment message when location parameter corresponds to current location of wireless communication device;

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US 5422816 A Sprague; David S. et al. Portable personal navigation tracking system;

US 5907293 A Tognazzini; Bruce System for displaying the characteristics, position, velocity and acceleration of nearby vehicles on a moving-map;

US 6100806 A Gaukel; John J. Apparatus and method for continuous electronic monitoring and tracking of individuals;

US 6446004 B1 Cao; Kevin Trung et al. System and method for implementing proximity or location driven activities;

US 6774840 B1 Adamczyk; Maria et al. Systems and methods for providing location-based arrival monitoring and notification;

US 6832092 B1 Suarez; Gustavo G. et al. Method and apparatus for communication within a vehicle dispatch system;

US 6907252 B2 Papadias; Constantinos B et al. Method and apparatus for detecting the presence of mobile terminals;

US 6944443 B2 Bates; Cary Lee et al. Method, apparatus and system for notifying a user of a portable wireless device;

US 7116992 B1 Tsunehara; Katsuhiko et al. Mobile station using positional information;

US 7124370 B2 Fish; Edmund J. Presence and geographic location notification based on a delegation model;

US 7203502 B2 Wilson; Brian et al. System for providing location-based services in a wireless network, such as locating individuals and coordinating meetings;

US 20020016171 A1 Doganata, Yurdaer N. et al. Mobile unit location system for automatically reporting to a central controller and subscriber the proximity of mobile units to a destination;

US 20040001446 A1 Bhatia, Randeep et al. Method and system for supporting rendezvous based instant group conferencing among mobile users;

US 20040203852 A1 Janakiraman, Pradeep System for delivering location-based notifications and method thereof;

Non-patent Publications:

Theo Kanter, "Attaching context-aware services to moving locations", IEEE Internet Computing, April, 2003

Bill Schilit et al., "Context-Aware Communication", IEEE Wireless Communications, October 2002

Hui Lei et al. "The Design and Applications of a Context Service", Mobile Computing and Communications Review, Vol 6, No. 4, 2002

Paramvir Bahl et al., "RADAR: An In-Building RF-based User Location and Tracking System", IEEE Infocom, 2000

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shirley X. Zhang whose telephone number is (571) 270-5012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi Arani can be reached on (571) 272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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